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GENERAL

1. Western Ministers discuss world situation--In their London discussion of the world situation, Secretary of State Acheson set forth before Foreign Ministers Bevin and Schuman the following considerations as deserving strong emphasis: (a) the USSR, by pouring much of its national income into preparedness, has created so wide a gap between its readiness and that of the West that immediate action is now required on an interim, or mid-term, plan as drawn up by the western defense ministers; (b) it is urgently necessary to create an economic foundation to support the required military effort and conditions of life in the West; (c) full use of German production is a matter of urgency and requires the attention of the Western Powers; (d) although the vitality and strength of the West, including relations in the North Atlantic area, have first priority, the problems of Asia are very important and the Western Powers must maintain their position in the East while building in the West; and (e) the West must make it clear in presenting any action taken to increase western strength that no aggressive intent exists. Foreign Ministers Bevin and Schuman approved this statement of the situation.

Turning to the problems of the UN with particular reference to China, Acheson declared that the question of Chinese representation was linked to major matters of US foreign policy. Because the US considers the USSR now possesses a position of dominance in China, from which it threatens all Southeast Asia, the US believes admission of the Chinese Communists to the UN is potentially more dangerous than a continued impasse in the UN. Acheson indicated that the US does not intend to take any positive action which would enable the UK to win a UN majority for admission of the Chinese Communists. The three foreign ministers then agreed that the Chinese admission question would be left until one of the governments informed the other two of its interest in re-opening the issue.

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2. US position on New Guinea problem--The Department of State has instructed US Ambassador Jarman in Canberra to inform the Australian Government that, although the US believes a trusteeship under Dutch administration to be a generally favorable solution of the New Guinea problem, the US neither supports nor opposes the recent Netherlands Cabinet decision to continue administering New Guinea as a dependent territory. Jarman is also to express the view that the US believes it can best contribute to a solution by refraining from lending support to either party and by awaiting the results of present efforts of the Netherlands and Indonesia to reach a settlement.

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